

## MISSION

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts independent and objective audits, inspections, and investigations to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and detect and prevent fraud, waste and abuse in Department of Homeland Security (DHS) programs.

Congress enacted the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (IG Act) to ensure integrity and efficiency in the Federal Government. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 established both DHS and this OIG. The OIG provides oversight over DHS and its diverse component agencies. The DHS Inspector General is appointed by the President and subject to Senate confirmation.

## OUR WORK

Our audits, inspections and investigations focus on the following DHS core missions:

1. Prevent Terrorism and Enhance Security;
2. Secure and Manage Our Borders;
3. Enforce & Administer Our Immigration Laws;
4. Safeguard and Secure Cyberspace; and
5. Ensure Resilient Response to Disasters.

## WHERE TO FIND OIG REPORTS

Visit our website at [WWW.OIG.DHS.GOV](http://WWW.OIG.DHS.GOV)

## STAY CONNECTED



## MEDIA INQUIRIES

Office of Public Affairs  
[dhs-oig.officepublicaffairs@oig.dhs.gov](mailto:dhs-oig.officepublicaffairs@oig.dhs.gov)  
202.254.4100

## OIG HOTLINE

To report alleged fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement involving DHS programs, visit [www.oig.dhs.gov](http://www.oig.dhs.gov) click on **Hotline** and you will be directed to complete an Online Allegation Form. Using the form ensures that your allegation will be promptly received and reviewed.

If you are unable to access our website:

### CALL

TOLL FREE	1-800-323-8603
TTY	1-844-889-4357
FAX	202-254-4297

### MAIL

Department of Homeland Security  
Office of Inspector General, Mail Stop 0305  
Attention: Office of Integrity & Quality Oversight  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Washington, DC 20528-0305

OIG seeks to protect the identity of each writer and caller.

## WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

The OIG provides information and assistance to whistleblowers reporting fraud, waste and abuse through its Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman  
[Whistleblower.Protection@oig.dhs.gov](mailto:Whistleblower.Protection@oig.dhs.gov)

Visit [www.oig.dhs.gov](http://www.oig.dhs.gov) click on Whistleblower Protections for more information.



# Guide to the DHS Office of Inspector General

We are committed to working in partnership with DHS officials, employees and contractors, and the public to enhance Homeland Security and protect the taxpayers' investment in vital DHS programs. I hope this pamphlet adds to your understanding of our role and purpose and that you will join us in the effort to prevent and deter waste, fraud and abuse.

--John Roth, Inspector General

March 2015

## AUTHORITY

The IG Act authorizes us to have access to all documents and records available to the agency; subpoena documents; administer oaths; have direct and prompt access to the Secretary; select, appoint, and employ OIG employees; and enter into contracts and consultant agreements. The IG also has the obligation to immediately report particularly serious or flagrant matters to the Secretary, who must transmit such reports to Congress within seven calendar days, along with any comments.

## ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Section 6 of the IG Act authorizes OIG to access and obtain all records, reports, audits, reviews, recommendations and other materials related to DHS programs and operations.

## SUBPOENA AUTHORITY

Section 6 of the IG Act also authorizes OIG to issue subpoenas to obtain documents and data in any medium, including electronically stored information and tangible things, from outside the Federal Government. The Right to Financial Privacy Act authorizes OIG access to financial records.

## ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALS

DHS employees must cooperate fully in OIG investigations by providing complete and accurate information. The majority of employees voluntarily consent to interviews. Employees who do not cooperate may be ordered by a supervisor to appear for an interview with an OIG investigator. Employees who fail to cooperate are subject to disciplinary action, unless questioned as the subject of an investigation that can lead to criminal prosecution.

## AUDITS

Our **Office of Audits** conducts and supervises audits and special reviews of DHS programs and operations, including program and financial management, contracts and grants. We make recommendations to improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of DHS programs/operations, and, when necessary, to deter, identify, and address fraud, waste and abuse. We also conduct congressionally mandated audits as well as respond to congressional requests for audits and reviews.

Our **Office of Information Technology Audits** conducts audits and evaluations of DHS information management, cyber infrastructure and systems integration activities. We also examine the cost effectiveness of acquisitions, implementation, security and management of major systems and telecommunications. Our IT Audit staff also conducts forensic audits and data analyses in support of the work of OIG auditors, inspectors and investigators.

Our **Office of Emergency Management Oversight** conducts timely audits to ensure disaster relief funds are spent appropriately, identifying fraud, waste, and abuse as early as possible. The office fully informs Congress, the DHS Secretary, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator and others about problems with disaster operations and assistance programs and recommends improvements.

## INSPECTIONS

Our **Office of Inspections** analyzes programs to evaluate operational efficiency, effectiveness and vulnerability. Our work includes special reviews of sensitive issues that respond to congressional requests requiring immediate action. We are the lead OIG office for reporting on DHS intelligence, international affairs, civil rights and civil liberties and science and technology.

## INVESTIGATIONS

Our **Office of Investigations** obtains relevant facts to address all aspects of a complaint. Our investigators interview witnesses, technical experts and the subjects of investigations, and examine documents and other records. Our Investigators have full statutory law enforcement authority, including power to carry firearms, make arrests, and execute warrants.

After gathering information, investigators prepare an investigative report. When there is evidence of Federal criminal wrongdoing, that information is presented to the Department of Justice to consider criminal or civil action. If the investigation shows evidence of an administrative offense, it is reported to the component where the subject works.

## FISCAL YEAR 2014 RESULTS

<b>Funds Put to Better Use</b>	<b>\$148,066,558</b>
<b>Questioned Costs</b>	<b>\$907,400,236</b>
<b>Reports Issued</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Hotline Complaints Processed</b>	<b>16,281</b>
<b>Closed Investigations</b>	<b>760</b>
<b>Personnel Actions</b>	<b>36</b>